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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Bondi's Island fire felt throughout region



A fire starts in a mulch pile at Bondi's Island on the Agawam/West Springfield border. PHOTO BY KERRY L. KOEHLER

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM/WEST SPRINGFIELD – Firefighters from multiple communities, including Agawam, responded to a fire at Bondi's Island around 1:30 p.m. last Thursday afternoon.

The fire is still under investigation, but a pile of mulch and other yard waste became engulfed and caught fire.

It took more than day to get the fire under control, and it needed the aid of a steady rain that came the following day in order for it to be reduced to smolders.

Due to high wind gusts on Thursday, a flume of smoke headed north and could be seen as far as Northampton and beyond. Heavy smoke went through part of the city of Springfield, calling for Springfield officials to wish to launch its own investigation into what happened in order to ensure it does not happen again.

Since the fire, officials did determine there was nothing harmful in the smoke.

The fire remains under investigation.

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## School Committee discusses new plans for young learners

By Shelby Macri  
[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

AGAWAM – Superintendent of Schools Shelia laid out a plan to add kindergarten and first grade students to full in-person learning. She explained to the committee what the guidelines for this plan would be.

An administrative subgroup was made to find

ways to expand to a four day in person opportunity to students who aren't meeting success during remote days. This will include more scheduling options to bring more Pre-K students in person. There was also a feasibility study done for the elementary schools, by grade level to agree concerns for younger learners.

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## Planning Board recommends accessory apartments

By Shelby Macri  
[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

AGAWAM – The Planning Board held a public hearing during their last meeting to address the Zoning amendment for accessory apartments. These are additions to houses that act as separate apartments for family members who need it, though there will be a tight definition of family.

These accessory apartments have been greatly discussed among the Agawam City Council, and representative Steve Buoniconti spoke on both the council's thoughts and Mayor William Sapelli's thoughts. Buoniconti explained to the planning board that the language specifying family

members has been discussed, debated, and argued about for a while now. He explained that the council wants more of a strict standard on family to prevent people from taking advantage of the adjoins apartment.

The fifth draft of this ordinance was shown by Beck Basch, in which the apartment is allowed to be used by immediate family members of the owner and spouse of the house. This includes parents, children, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The owners of the house and accessory apartment are unable to allow close friends, or more importantly a stranger to occupy the space. These apartments are adjoining a single-family home, and these can impact the surrounding neigh-

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## Brownies take on 'Hamp



Justin Davis tries to keep possession of the ball in boys soccer action last week against Northampton. More photos on page 8. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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# COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until Jan. 15

HOLYOKE — Free COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until Jan. 15.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help the state and the City of Holyoke reduce the spread of COVID-19. After two previous extensions, testing was set to end on Oct. 31. It will now run through mid-January. Tests are being conducted outside HCC’s Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by Fallon Ambulance in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Testing is available six days a week during the following hours:

- Monday 7-11 a.m.
- Tuesday 2-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, 7-11 a.m.
- Thursday 2-7 p.m.
- Friday 7-11 a.m.
- Saturday 7-11 a.m.

Testing are conducted on a first-



come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments, and there is no cost for the tests and no referral is required.

Please enter campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M Lot (adjacent the Bartley Center), where in-car tests are being administered.

Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.

## Used toys needed for holiday exchange

AGAWAM – Agawam Zero Waste Club and the Agawam Rotary Club have partnered to collect toys for the 5th Annual Holiday Used Toy Exchange. This volunteer team has modified the annual event to comply with COVID-19 health guidelines.

Donors will send individual pictures of each of their gently used, clean, working toys by email to [AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com](mailto:AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com) from now until Sun., Nov. 1. Please include your name and telephone number on the e-mail. Toys will be collected by appointment only at the Agawam Public Library parking lot on Sat., Nov. 21 from 10-3. Donors will remain in their cars for this drive-thru event.

Gently used toys wanted include musical instruments, action figures, dolls, sports

equipment, books, bicycles, electronics, video games, DVDs, stuffed animals, model kits, art supplies, building toys, creative learning toys & structures, games, puzzles and baby toys. Donated toys must be clean, working and have all parts.

General public free shopping will be on-line from Wed., Nov. 4 through Tues., Nov. 10. Participants will be entered into a lottery after selecting their favorite toys virtually. The specific website and shopping format information will be made available at a future date. Toys will be distributed by appointment only on Sat., Dec. 5 from 10-2 in the Agawam Public Library parking lot. Participants will remain in their cars for this drive-thru event. Please submit questions to [AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com](mailto:AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com)

## Remaining dates and times for early voting

AGAWAM – In a year where alternate forms of voting rather than the traditional Election Day in-person polls have become more commonplace; the Town of Agawam has announced early voting for the second time in a presidential election. Early voting was introduced as a voting option in the 2016 presidential election.

Any resident of Agawam can go to the senior center to cast a ballot. Anyone who participates in early voting will receive the full ballot for the 2020 election, which includes the race for president of the United States, one U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, the local state representative and state senate races, and two ballot questions.

The main Election Day will be on Nov. 3, and on that day, voters would report to their various precinct locations.

In Agawam, early voting in person will

be available at the Agawam Senior Center; 954 Main Street, Agawam on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, October 22, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 23, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 24, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 25, 2020 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 26, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 28, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 29, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 30, 2020 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**APARTMENT** ■ from page 1

borhood as well as property value and classifications.

These are not to be seen as an opportunity to rent out the apartment and essentially become a landlord, these are for family members that need stability and help while still having a bit of independence. Apart from the language of family members, the draft includes that the apartment can be no more than 900 square feet. It’s adjoined to the primary residence, but it will be a separate unit with utilities, and there will only be one dwelling per property. The entrance to the apartment will need to be on the side or rear, and if a staircase is needed it will be encased on the inside of the dwelling.

These accessory apartments will require a special permit, and a notarized letter to the Building inspector for the reasoning and needs of the apartment. Additionally, the owner of the house will need to list who is staying in the apartment and how they’re related to the owner or their spouse. No more than three people will be able to use the apartment and at least three off street parking spaces will be needed. The council added that owner of the house will need to file an annual application to continue the special permit, also there will be an annual fee of \$250 for the accessory apartment.

Buoniconti explained that the annual fee is as high as it is because the council feels that only those owners who need the accessory apartment will be dedicated and willing to pay the fee and fill the necessary paperwork annually. The owners will also have to give a declaration and agreement of the apartment to the deed of the house, at the Registry of Deeds. This may have its own set of fees. These are both ways to keep track of what houses have these apart-

ments, so if the building inspector does a check and finds one undocumented the appropriate measures can be taken. Those measures include issuing a cease and desist of the apartment and taking those involved to court.

The building inspector will conduct an on-site inspection of the accessory apartment, to make sure it’s being used properly. The owner of the property will need to send a notarized letter to the building inspector yearly, as he will enforce the special permit while checking on the apartment. If the home with a dwelling is sold, then the new owner will need to be notified of the accessory apartment and its uses. If the new owner wishes to use the apartment they need to send a notarized letter to the building inspector within 30 days of the sale of the house.

If a new owner decided they don’t won’t to use the accessory apartment for family members, the dwelling space will be used by the single-family home. As storage space or other options needed by the new owner that doesn’t include housing family members. The accessory apartments aren’t included in affordable housing as they are not open to house people other than family members.

Though there were letters questioning what a family member can be, the council ultimately decided that family must be more specific. The planning board members agreed that because the language is so strict and specific it will help to only appeal to those who need it. The planning board decided to send a positive recommendation to the city council on the draft presented for the accessory apartments. This ordinance will now go to city council for its own hearing.

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## ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 452 calls for service from Oct. 12 to Oct. 18 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

### Friday, Oct. 16

Kevin Bingle, 57, of 83 ½ Main St., Westfield, was arrested at 5:43 p.m. for operating with a revoked license.

Everett Vonplachecki, 22, of 59 Cumberland Ave., Wethersfield, Conn., was arrested at 10:06 p.m. for operating under the influence of liquor, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, leaving the scene of a property damage incident, and a marked lanes violation.

### Sunday, Oct. 18

Henry Mercade, 40, of 17 Carver St., Springfield, was arrested at 3:10 a.m. for a subsequent offense of possession of a Class B substance, and trespassing.

## Agawam Library offers Boston Children’s Museum weekend passes

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library announces the immediate availability of Boston Children’s Museum weekend passes, graciously provided by the Friends of the Agawam Library. These are available to reserve by Agawam and Feeding Hills residents 18 and older, with a CW/MARS library card in good standing. Each pass is valid only for the date listed and admits 4 people free of charge.

After receiving a library discount coupon from the library, patrons must then reserve their visit online with Boston Children’s Museum.

New Instructions for Patrons:

- Visit <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/ticketing>
- Review the directions for timed tickets
- Click on the “Discount Programs” & drop down arrow
- Click on “Half Price Library Timed

Ticket “to book

- The date on the Library Discount Coupon must match the date of the patron’s visit.

Once arriving at the Museum, visitors will proceed to the Admissions Scanning Station with their online reservation and the date specific Library Discount Coupon received from the library. Patron can present these digitally on a hand held device or as a paper print out.

Patrons with questions about the online ordering system should contact [Orders@BostonChildrensMuseum.org](mailto:Orders@BostonChildrensMuseum.org)

As venues reopen to the public, it is important to contact the zoo or museum you wish to visit, as each one has a different process for securing a time slot. Please visit the library’s website at [www.agawam-library.org](http://www.agawam-library.org) for availability.

### PLAN ■ from page 1

Hoffman explained that with some modifications, adjustments, and implications; the schools will be able to fit Kindergarten and first grade students who are currently in the hybrid model, into full in person learning while maintaining a six foot distance.

To implement this plan there are a few conditions that need to be met, including additional sections for Kindergarten students at Phelps and Robinson Park schools, and additional sections for first graders at Granger, Phelps, and Robinson Park schools. These additional sections will mean that students and teachers will be re-grouped, so students will a teacher now may have to switch groups and get a new teacher.

A bus will need to be added to Phelps school, while storage and new furniture is needed at Phelps and Robinson Park schools. The storage is needed because the current furniture is too big and doesn’t allow for six feet of distance between students. Hoffman explained that they’re looking into smaller furniture sets that can be rearranged as needed, and can be connected to form groups when that’s available. These conditions are for the current hybrid students and remote students will need to remain remote at this time.

These currently remote students will be the sole responsibility of remote teachers in each building at each grade level, as other teachers will be required for the new in person learning. There will be approximately 12 desks in each room for the first graders, and the kindergarten rooms are bigger where they can hold around 14 or 15 desks. Though the kindergarten class sizes are bigger than that, that’s why they will need additional sections in some schools. This is to maintain the six-foot distance, maintaining this distance between students allows for them to be able to talk mask breaks in class.

The committee members asked if the class sizes could be bigger by shortening the distance to three feet. Hoffman explained that a three foot distance would mean that kids can’t take a mask break in the classroom because of the closer capacity, and kids would need to go outside for a break and that can interfere with timing throughout the day. There are capabilities to have all the hybrid students at a safe distance with masks and breaks and they school is looking into more options as time goes.

This goes for the school playgrounds and playscape, as they are not currently including the use of the playscape with the additional kindergarten and first grade students. Some committee members ask why the use of playscape aren’t included, and Hoffman explained that even with hand sanitizer and cleaning the playscape once daily, they are high points of touch for little kids. There is not enough time in-between recesses to fully clean and disinfect the playscapes, so they don’t want to risk using those high touch areas. Though there is a group looking into safe ways to use the playgrounds, they’re starting with swings to see if there’s a way for kids to use the playground later on.

There are COVID related funds that are available for the school to use for storage and furniture costs, there is storage in the back of the Junior high School and Hoffman suggested getting similar storage units for Phelps and Robinson Park schools. Along with the plan the elementary principals spoke with their teachers about this new plan on Tuesday October 13, before the School Committee meeting. With any new plan there is at least a two week stage before it starts, this allows the schools to set up the buildings, assign teachers, and get ready for more students. Also the teachers union is notified so they’re ready for the new plan. There needs to be communications to family members and students, so the plan will be implemented no sooner than two weeks.

The committee members agreed that it’d be valuable to get their younger learners in an environment that helps them, though they were concerned about what full in-person learning meant. Hoffman explained that rather than five days, they were looking at possibly four and a half days of learning, where teachers could give lessons during the morning then have the afternoon to meet and regroup. Though Hoffman included that she wants to talk more with

The committee members were in agreement to make this move for Kindergarten and First grade students, that is after a discussion with the teachers and teachers union. Since the teachers have already been spoken to and notified, the school needs to find ways to set up busing, rooms, and learning plans, the committee agreed that the plan would take effect in no less than two weeks.

## Virtual symphony pass available through Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM — The Pioneer Valley Symphony is preparing for their upcoming 82nd season and for now they will be completely virtual...and free of charge. In the past, the Agawam Library has received passes valid for 2 adult and 2 children, however this year we have been provided with the code LIBRARYCOMP82, which will allow free access to any PVS “Presents” or “Discovery Series” online event.

The code may be redeemed by visiting the website [www.pvsoc.org](http://www.pvsoc.org), going to the

TICKETS page and then entering the code at checkout. This will make the total value due \$0, and a confirmation email will be received with the access link to the event.

The PVS operates almost entirely due to the generosity of the community. Donations to support their education program, youth programming or subscription concert series may be made via their website, or by check mailed to PVS, 91 Main St. Greenfield, MA 01301.

## Rotary Club presents cybersecurity program

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club is offering a special presentation on cybersecurity in the federal government and especially, the Hack the Pentagon program, Wednesday, October 28 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The presenter, Lisa Wiswell Coe, is an accomplished leader in the security space. She will share her travels from small town in northeastern Pennsylvania to the halls of the Department of Defense and her experiences as Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy in the Office of the Secretary of

Defense. In this position, she pioneered the “Hack the Pentagon” program, the U.S. Government’s first bug bounty program.

This program, by a world class speaker, will be both informative and entertaining, is open to the public upon registration. To register, go to [agawamrotary.org](http://agawamrotary.org), scroll down to Lisa Wiswell Coe in the Speakers section (left tool bar) and follow the instructions to register.

The Agawam Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, an international service organization whose motto is “Service Above Self”.

## Cultural Council announces writing competition

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a writing competition for all Agawam Public School students. The topic is “Facing the Challenges of the Coronavirus - How did you do it?” Entries will be accepted from Oct. 15 through Nov. 30, and the winners will be chosen by members of the Agawam Cultural Council. Monetary prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winning entries. The requirements for entry into this competition can be found on the ACC website and by contacting the librarians for each of the schools in Agawam. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at (413) 241-7196 or by email to:

[maryjane.augusti@gmail.com](mailto:maryjane.augusti@gmail.com).

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the current pandemic stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, at: [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

## UMass Amherst Libraries mark Open Access Week

### Staff report

AMHERST—The UMass Amherst Libraries announce the publication of *An American Playgoer in London*, an openly licensed monograph authored and assembled by Joseph Donohue. This monograph has a Creative Commons license, making it a free and openly available resource for anyone to use, share and remix.

Over more than four decades, Joseph Donohue made London almost a second home, researching British drama and theatre during the day, attending performances of plays and operas at night, and recording his experiences in a series of meticulously kept diaries. He has now drawn together reviews of over one hundred twenty-five theatrical events that capture in vivid detail the immediacy of theater-going and the vitality of live performance in a new open monograph, *An American Playgoer in London*. Featuring descriptions of productions of West End and Fringe theatres and the audiences that witnessed them, this collection should appeal to all

who find interest in accounts of live theatre and the history of dramatic and theatrical art.

The announcement of the monograph’s publication coincides with Open Access Week from October 19 to 25, which provides “an opportunity to take action in making openness the default for research—to raise the visibility of scholarship, accelerate research, and turn breakthroughs into better lives.”

It was established in 2008 by the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) and its student community partners.

*An American Playgoer in London*, as well as other openly licensed books, is available online or for download via Open Books Library, a catalog of open access books published by the UMass Amherst Libraries. The catalog is hosted on Pressbooks, an open source WordPress plugin that allows for easy reading on the web as well as PDF and eBook downloads for offline reading.

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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

### Guidance needed on Social Security and Medicare

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am turning 67 in October and as of today, I am still employed full time. I really do not plan on retiring unless I am forced to. But how do I arrange my Social Security and Medical care stuff. It seems this subject is like a color, and everyone has a different color they like. Is there any way for me to figure this out with help or on my own? I could really use some guidance. Signed: Perplexed

Dear Perplexed: Okay, let's look at your Social Security and your Medicare separately, because they're two totally independent programs.

You do not need to do anything about Social Security until you are ready to start collecting your benefits. Since you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, you are now earning Delayed Retirement Credits at the rate of .667% per month. That means that your benefit in October, if you were to claim it then, would be 8% more than it would have been at age 66. If you continue to delay applying for Social Security benefits, you will continue to earn those DRCs up to age 70, when your benefit amount would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA. The choice of when to claim your Social Security is yours to make, considering your need for the money, your health and your expected longevity. The longer you wait (up to 70), the more your benefit will be, and if you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age) then you'll get both a higher benefit amount and more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting to claim your Social Security.

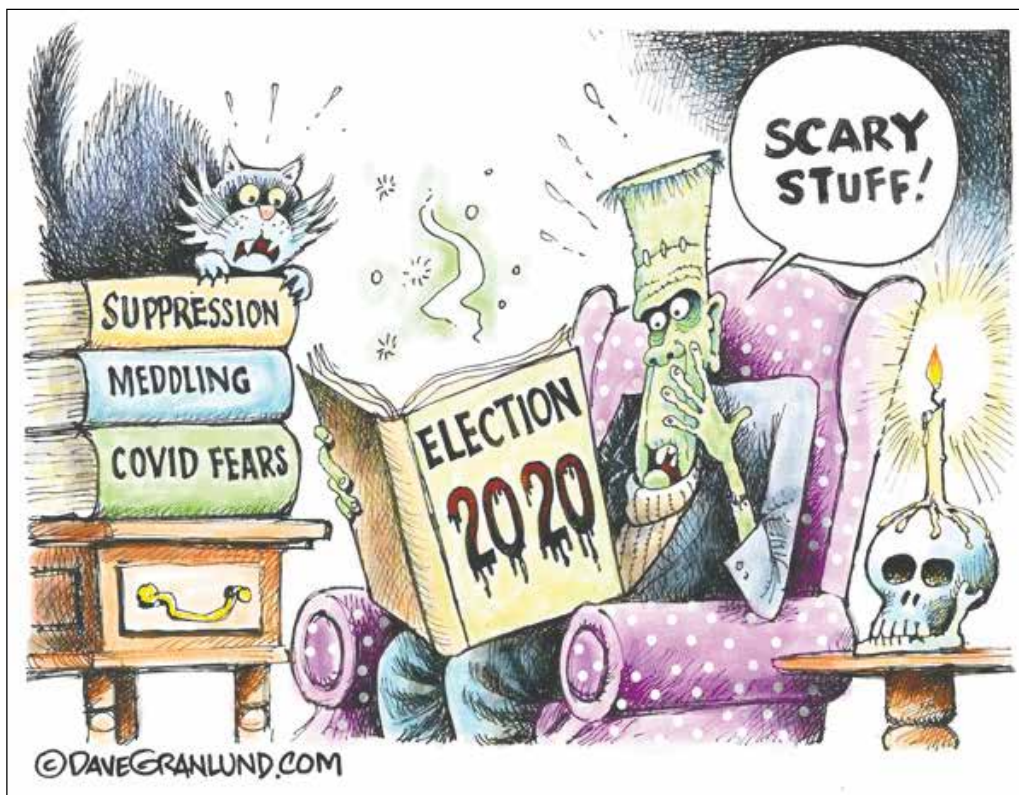
As for Medicare, if you are now covered by your employer's "creditable" healthcare plan, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your current employer coverage ends (when you stop working). "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants. If you now have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage (including drug coverage) you won't be liable for a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare (or a drug plan) later. If you are still working and know your creditable employer coverage will end soon, you can enroll for Medicare benefits to start coincident with the end of your employer coverage. Or, after you stop working, you can enroll in Medicare during a "Special Enrollment Period" (or "SEP" for those transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare coverage). Your SEP for Medicare will last for eight months after you stop working, but you only have 63 days after the end of your employer drug coverage to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.

The bottom line is this – you don't need to enroll in Medicare until your creditable employer healthcare coverage ends. And you don't need to apply for Social Security until you wish to start receiving benefits (just don't wait beyond 70).

One final point because you were born in 1953: if you are now married and your wife is already collecting her Social Security, you can file a "restricted application for spouse benefits only" and collect only a spouse benefit from your wife, while still allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until you are 70. But this option is only available to you because you were born before Jan. 2, 1954.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



## Letters to the Editor

### Ranked-choice voting is a bad choice

#### Dear Editor:

240 years ago, John Adams, of Braintree, Massachusetts was the Principal Author of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our State Constitution went into effect almost exactly 240 years ago (October 25, 1780), and served as a model upon which the Constitution of the United States was fashioned years later. The Massachusetts Constitution remains as the oldest written, functioning constitution effective in the world today. An integral part of the Massachusetts Constitution defines how we determine our elected officials: by majority vote of we, The People.

Question 2, the Ranked-Choice Voting Question, seeks to dismantle a system that has worked well for almost 2 ½ centuries. By implementing a scheme of counting and recounting votes until, arbitrarily, the "magic number" of 50+% is reached will disenfranchise a vast number of voters, particularly those that choose to only vote for 1 candidate rather

er than rank them in order of supposed preference. My opinion of Ranked-Choice voting has been formed as a result of watching the results where it has been tried. For example, in Minneapolis 10% of votes cast were literally thrown out. In San Francisco, Former California Gov. Jerry Brown declared Ranked-Choice Voting a "complexifying" disaster. Gov. Gavin Newsome recognizes that Ranked-Choice Voting is confusing and does not lead to greater democracy, as promised.

Ranked-Choice Voting would lead to "straw-dog" candidates on ballots designed to disrupt voting systems by promoting collusion among teams of less-qualified candidates. It is nothing more than a scheme designed to manufacture election outcomes. Voting errors and spoiled ballots will occur more often. As the ACLU of Kansas points out Ranked-Choice Voting exacerbates the economically disadvantaged voters by increasing disparities between identifiable groups.

The Mass. Retirees organization on October 2, 2020 called Ranked-Choice Voting a "confusingly bad idea" that will increase partisanship, lead to increased polarization and voter apathy.

Even more chilling is the pressure to pass Ranked-Choice Voting funded largely by Billionaire families that do NOT have the best interests in the people of Massachusetts in mind: the FOX NEWS/Murdock Money; the ENRON/John Arnold Money; and the SOROS Family Money.

Do NOT sell our One-Person, One-Vote election system to the highest bidder. Ranked-Choice Voting seeks to solve a problem that does not exist. It has been wrong wherever it has been implemented. It has led to uncertainty and mistrust in election outcomes. Ranked-Choice Voting is tortured and convoluted.

Please vote No on Question 2. Say no to Ranked-Choice Voting, it is a bad choice.

Cecilia P. Calabrese

### O'Connor endorsed by union head

#### Dear Editor:

As President of the Western Mass Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and Vice President for UFCW 1459, I know firsthand the impact that COVID-19 and the economic downturn are having on Massachusetts working families. Too many of us are still working on the front lines of this pandemic, struggling with inadequate sick time, retaliation for protesting the lack of proper PPE, and a shortage of funding for our local and state governments, public schools, and infrastructure. It is more important than ever that we come together to elected leaders who will be champions for working people.

That's why both of the organizations I represent, the Western Mass Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (WMALF) and The United Food and Commercial Workers local 1459 are proud to support Kerri O'Connor for State Representative of the 3rd Hampden District. Together these organizations represent over 25,000 workers from across Western Massachusetts. Kerri understands how important it is to have a Commonwealth that works for everyone - not just the wealthy and well connected.

The WMALF is committed to support candidates who will champion our vision: public investments that benefit

the community and workers; safe and dignified work for all; livable wages and retirement benefits for all; strong public schools; policies that support workers' right to organize; responsible economic development that shares benefits with workers; and other policies that support a better life for all working people of Western Massachusetts. I hope you'll join us this Nov. 3 in casting your vote for Kerri O'Connor.

Jeff Jones, President, Western Massachusetts Area Labor Federation

Vice President, United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1459



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YESTERDAY’S HOMETOWN NEWS

Two strong Brownies

How much do you weigh? Do you or did you ever bench press? Maybe you saw Dale McCarl years ago bench pressing 430 pounds in the Fitness First weight room. Sure, some guys have done more but for Dale, that was more than two and a half times his body weight. Do the math. How much would you have to do now or at any point in your life? Probably didn’t happen.

Another Fitness First strongman years ago was Lou Champiney. He’d be there curling dumbbells I couldn’t roll across the floor. Lou is 69 now and has been doing push-ups every day for quite a while. I think he started when I told him about former Dallas Cowboys running back Herschel Walker. When Herschel was young he was doing 3,500 push-ups and 1,500 sit-ups every day.



Dale McCarl



Louis Champiney

Lou is doing nearly 700 push-ups a day. His total since he’s been keeping track is 80,000 and he should be at 100,000 in early December. He wants to reach a million and that will take around 1285 days. Lou tried to tell me that he won’t hit a million until he is 78. I told him not to tell anyone I was his math teacher at AHS. (Lou takes the weekends off.)

Waiting for a prescription at CVS recently, I gave my name out loud. A woman sitting nearby asked me if I was the one who wrote the column for the town paper. I told her I was and she said, “I’m Kathy Pond, I graduated in 1962, a year before you. I thought for a few seconds and remembered Kathy and many other senior girls that were in Mrs. Sears’ French III class. It was my junior year and definitely an enjoyable class for me if you know what I mean. Poor Don Sprandel who was always petrified that Mrs. Sears would call on him to speak in French. Maria Sears left Agawam for

the Cape and taught at Harwichport High School. She and her husband owned some small cottages near Bass River and I visited her there over thirty years ago. We reminisced for quite a while that day. A year or two later I went back to see her. A new owner told me that she had moved to Florida and I didn’t have any luck tracking her down. To this day I remember “La Tour Eiffel” from her class and having to memorize a French poem whose first line was, “J’ai perdu ma force et ma vie.”

The School Committee recently discussed the possibility of dropping the term Brownie. The late Judge William Walsh assured me a few years ago that the term came from two sources. He said a man who owned Brown’s Market here in town used to coach and sponsor sandlot baseball teams called his boys “Brownies.” The other source was since the Greenfield players were called “Greenies” and we had brown uniforms, why not call us “Brownies?”

Looks like there won’t be a Hall of Fame banquet this year. I nominated Venita Giles and Mayor William Sapelli and I corroborated on the nomination of Doug Janik. Doug and Venita are both worthy Candidates.

Sam Provo ‘66 called me the other day. Hall of Famer rehabbing up at his home in Easthampton. He played some basketball at Umass for the legendary Jack Leaman. What other Brownie played for Leaman?

Former soccer right winger Jeff Leporati ‘71 now lives in Clearwater Florida.

John Spellacy said his sister Kathy lives in Maine. Hope to get her at the Hall of Fame banquet when her track star Venita Giles gets inducted. Not positive but Venita is a no-brainer for the Hall. Fastest female Brownie ever.

Eddie Neilson ‘41 still mows his lawn and his neighbor’s too.

The hurricane that headed toward the Florida panhandle made me wonder if Scott Morrison is still living there. Tony Karam might know.

Four names in the boys soccer team article on Oct. 8 reminded me of former Brownies with the same last name: Vinny Romeo, Jayden Montagna, Nick Uschmann and Jack Patterson. Makenzie Shean on the girls team could be another. She was pictured on Oct. 15.

so students have time to make informed decisions about their classes.

HCC’s January term, called Wintersession, begins Monday, Jan. 4. The spring 2021 semester begins Monday, Jan. 25. HCC will also be offering flexible spring start dates on Feb. 16 and March 29.

“This is a challenging time,” Royal said, “but our community is meeting it with resilience, creativity, and determination. I appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we navigate this time together. Supporting and inspiring our students remains our top priority today and always.”

Like most colleges, HCC started remote instruction in mid-March after the COVID-19 pandemic forced campus closures. This fall, all HCC classes are being offered in one of three formats: online, blended remote, and blended face-to-face.

Online courses follow a traditional, asynchronous online model with coursework deadlines established by instructors.

Blended remote courses have both asynchronous online components combined with real-time scheduled class meetings via videoconference platforms such as Zoom.

Blended face-to-face combines blended remote with some in-person instruction on campus. For the most part this format is limited to health science programs that require clinical labs, such as nursing, radiologic technology, veterinary technician and medical assistant.

Drive-up flu clinics coming to HCC

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will serve as a host site for drive-up flu vaccine clinics during the next few weeks.

The clinics will be held on Fri., Oct. 23; Tues., Nov. 3; and Fri., Nov. 6. They are being provided by the Holyoke Board of Health and CVS Pharmacy and will be open to the general public.

All the clinics run from 8 – 11 a.m. and will be held in Parking Lot M next to HCC’s Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main campus at 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke, the same location where free

COVID-19 testing is underway until Oct. 31.

The flu vaccines are free with most insurance, including MassHealth. Pre-registration is not required but highly recommended to ensure sufficient supply.

These are drive-up clinics, so there is no need to exit your vehicle. Free face masks will also be distributed on site.

Appointments can be scheduled for 20-minute time slots by following the links on the HCC website to the CVS Pharmacy registration pages for each day: [hcc.edu/flu](http://hcc.edu/flu)

Baystate Health announces changes in inpatient and outpatient visitor guidelines

Staff report

SPRINGFIELD –Baystate Health is announcing, now in effect, additional changes to inpatient and outpatient visitor guidelines previously announced in June as the state began its reopening process.

Visitation hours continue to be daily from 12 to 8 p.m.

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield include:

- No visitors under the age of 18 years old are allowed in the hospital, unless the visitor is a child or sibling of a patient
- COVID-19 negative patients are allowed one visitor per patient at a time with the following new exceptions
- OB patients who are in labor and postpartum: two visitors
- Hospice, end-of-life patients or for life-changing diagnosis: up to two visitors and one clergy member
- COVID-19 negative patients located on care units which have COVID-19 positive/ persons under investigation (PUI) patients: one visitor

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Children’s Hospital in Springfield include:

- COVID-19 Negative Patients are allowed up to two parents/guardians at a

time

- While no visitors are allowed in the Baystate Medical Center ED, the Pediatric Emergency Department is allowing two parents at a time unless COVID positive or PUI (person under investigation)

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield include:

- One visitor allowed for patients in the Emergency Department
- Two birthing partners at a time are allowed during labor and postpartum

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield include:

- One visitor allowed for patients in the Emergency Department

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer include:

- One visitor allowed for patients in the Emergency Department

Changes to the visitation policy at Mary Lane Outpatient Center in Ware include:

- One visitor allowed for patients in the Emergency Department

All visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on visitor guidelines, visit [baystatehealth.org/visitors](http://baystatehealth.org/visitors).

Remote Learning Assistance Program

☆ Agawam School Age Childcare ☆

The ASAC Program has temporarily transitioned to meet the needs of students to better support families through this pandemic.



ASAC provides quality childcare for children through 6th grade at Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam. Students bring their mobile devices so staff can assist children with remote learning assignments. Please note that ASAC staff are Agawam Public School employees but we are not certified teachers so parents will still need to oversee their child’s schoolwork.

Select Monday & Tuesday or Thursday & Friday  
from 7 am - 3 pm or 8 am - 4 pm.  
Tuition cost is \$110 per child for a 2-day session.

- There is a \$50 enrollment fee due upon registration along with your child’s first week and last week tuition payment. The registration fee and the two-week tuition fee are non-refundable unless your child’s educational model changes.

Space is limited so please act quickly to secure an opening for your child!

The application, parent handbook and individual healthcare plan are available online at [www.agawamed.org](http://www.agawamed.org) under the District Resources link. Click on the Agawam School Age Childcare Program link and then on ASAC Program Information to locate all documents.

ASAC is NOT able to accept  
New England Farm Workers’ Vouchers at this time.

If you have any further program questions please contact:

ASAC Director, Andrea Cichetti at (413) 313-4117



# STCC’s live online chat feature connects students during COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – The live chat feature on the Springfield Technical Community College website has been quietly in use for nearly 10 years, but has exploded in popularity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

STCC Vice President of Student Affairs Darcey Kemp said students as well as the general public are hitting the button on the website called “ChatNOW!” more than ever. They can easily connect with a STCC employee to get information about departments and services including:

- Admissions
- Academic Advising and Transfer Center
- Health and Wellness Center
- Student financial services
- IT help
- Library
- General information

“It’s a fast and efficient way for our students and members of the community to connect with us. They don’t have to wait for a return email or leave a voicemail. If they chat with us during normal business hours (Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), they will be connected with a STCC employee.”

“I think STCC serves as a model for others looking to meet the needs of their students,” Kemp said. “Other community colleges have asked us about our experience with ChatNOW! We have received positive feedback from students, and we are proud of the statistics. Students are able to rate their experience and give us feedback. The numbers grow each month.”

Between March 6 and April 5, the college recorded 170 engagements with the ChatNOW! tool. The following month, the

total number of chats grew to 747. Between Aug. 6 and Sept. 5, the number hit 3,841 chats per month; over 20 times the amount of requests in March.

STCC restricted access to the campus in mid-March and transitioned to remote and online operations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmissions. Prior to the start of the pandemic, students often would stop by the Ira Rubenzahl Student Learning Commons (Building 19) on campus to get information.

“Our ChatNOW! feature is like a virtual Building 19,” said Jasmine Herman, an administrative assistant with the Academic Advising and Transfer Center who responds to ChatNOW! questions. “You can get transferred from office to office within the same chat. The students receive a transcript of their chat, with access to helpful links. ChatNOW! is quicker than walking to the building in person and gives the students everything they need to know in writing.”

In addition to students, the live chat feature gets used by people living in the community, those who might be interested in applying to STCC or finding out about events as well as employers and officials from public schools seeking information about the college.

“We flipped from on-campus operations to the virtual space very quickly. We are still providing core services, resources and answering questions for our students. I’m really proud of the high level of service our teams have provided using the ChatNOW! tool,” Kemp said.

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit [stcc.edu/apply](http://stcc.edu/apply) or call Admissions at 413-755-3333.

## Flu vaccines available for seniors

AGAWAM – The Agawam Health Department has a very limited supply of senior high-dose flu vaccine and regular flu vaccine available. Once gone there will be no more until next year. They will be distributed through Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020. Don’t be sick for the holidays, get vaccinated today. Please call Nurse Sherry at (413) 726-9722 to schedule an appointment.

## Deadline set for connection installation

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam’s Department of Public Works has announced that Friday, Nov. 6 will be the last day to apply for road opening permits for the installation of water, sewer, or drain connections that have to be installed by the Town.

All connections applied for after the deadline will be installed in the spring of 2021.

This notice does not apply to connection which have been previously installed to the property line of an existing property.

## Schools

### Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Visiting College Representatives: If you are interested in meeting with College or University Representatives that will be conducting virtual visits at our school, you must sign up in Naviance at least one day in advance. Google Meet or Zoom links will be provided when you sign up.

<b>October 23:</b>	
7:30 AM	Thomas College
8:25 AM	Colby-Sawyer College
9:20 AM	Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
10:10 AM	Clarkson University
12:20 PM	Champlain College
1:05 PM	Lesley University

**Reminders:**

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges. [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/937652/Senior\\_Application\\_Packet\\_2020-2021.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf)

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you’re headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can’t access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Virtual College Fairs are coming soon! The last fair will be held on November 8 (2 – 10 PM). On each fair date, more than 600 colleges and universities will offer Zoom sessions and meetings. Students everywhere can log in, drop in, and ask questions. Please register at [virtualcollegefairs.org/events](http://virtualcollegefairs.org/events)

The New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) registration page for the Virtual Fall College Fairs is now open. Partnering with GoTo-CollegeFairs, NEACAC is excited about this opportunity for students to explore virtual “booths”, chat with admission representatives, watch presentations, and much more. More than 250 institutions will be exhibiting at the College Fairs. The dates and times are Thursday, October, 29 from 6-8 PM, and Sunday, November 13 from 1-3 PM. Registration is required, but is free! Register now at [neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual](http://neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual) and follow the steps to gain access to the fairs.

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges’ websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

Need to learn about financial aid? The trusted experts at MEFA (Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority) are host-

ing FREE college financing webinars four times per week beginning Monday, Sept 28th through Thurs, Nov 5th. Webinars will be held every Monday through Thursday, with daytime and evening hours, and presented by industry experts, both from within MEFA and from colleges and organizations across Massachusetts. Register for a webinar at [mefa.org/events](http://mefa.org/events).

**Special Interest Programs:**

It is not too late to STCC to your plan at Springfield Technical Community College! Classes are now forming for a start on October 28th and will last for seven weeks. Learn more at [stcc.edu/flex](http://stcc.edu/flex)

**Scholarship Information:**

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Each year, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation awards 150 college scholarships worth \$20,000 to high school students across the United States through the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Students need a 3.0 GPA to fill out an online application that requires no essays, no recommendations, and no transcripts by October 31, 2020 at 5 PM EST. More details are available at [Cokeurl.com/Scholarships](http://Cokeurl.com/Scholarships)

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC): This scholarship program offers students the opportunity to earn their degree and receive valuable leadership and management skills while enjoying the benefits of an exciting career. Several requirements exist. The deadline for submitting an application is December 31, 2020. Please visit [public.navy.mil](http://public.navy.mil) for details.

The 2020 Profile in Courage Essay will be offering a first-place prize of \$10,000, a second place prize of \$3,000, and \$1,000 for five finalists. The maximum word count is 1,000 with a minimum of 700, not including citations and bibliographies. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2021. More information is available at [jfklibrary.org/essaycontest](http://jfklibrary.org/essaycontest)

Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at [Tenaska.com/scholarship-form](http://Tenaska.com/scholarship-form), are due no later than February 12, 2021.

The American College Foundation (ACF) is offering a Visionary Scholarship, with multiple winners selected to each receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The application process is quick and easy and financial need is not considered. All may apply. The application is available at [American-CollegeFoundation.org](http://American-CollegeFoundation.org) and the deadline is May 1, 2021.

The creators of the “Student Award Search Aid” website are offering the B. Davis Scholarship for 2021. Please visit [studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm](http://studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm) to read about the program and to apply for the scholarship. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and the deadline is May 24, 2021.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Battered corners: dog-  
6. \_\_\_ Mater: one's school  
10. National capital  
14. Frogs and toads order  
15. Bathrooms (French)  
17. Praise  
19. Witch  
20. Consume  
21. Pork and lamb are two types  
22. Rocky peak  
23. Women's undergarments  
24. From end to end  
26. Bed sheets  
29. South Sudanese king  
31. Dislike immensely  
32. Diving seabird  
34. Breathe noisily  
35. Full of roots  
37. Inside  
38. Small island in a river  
39. Tear into pieces  
40. "CSI" actor George

41. Make less dense  
43. Derogatory term for a country native  
45. Pike and pickerel genus  
46. Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr.)  
47. Belgian city  
49. "The Joy Luck Club" author  
50. Essence of "Aloha"  
53. Suggestions  
57. One who overindulges  
58. Expression  
59. Maize dough  
60. Make into leather  
61. British noblemen

**CLUES DOWN**

1. One of two or more people or things  
2. Small, deerlike water buffalo  
3. Part of a ladder  
4. Unit of work  
5. Patriotic women  
6. Fragrant essential oil  
7. Aggressive, uncouth man  
8. One thousandth of an inch  
9. Brisk and cheerful readiness  
10. Serving no practical purpose  
11. Prevent from going forward  
12. Camera part  
13. Former CIA  
16. Colorless, odorless gas  
18. Long division of time  
22. Atomic #73  
23. Make a bleating sound  
24. The kids love him  
25. Female condition prior to menstrual period  
27. Founder of Sikhism  
28. Sudanese swamp  
29. He/she can help with your finances  
30. Part of the human body  
31. Mortar trough  
33. Greek island  
35. Change pagination  
36. Queens hip hop group  
37. Precursor to the EU  
39. A way to go on  
42. Slender marine fish  
43. Georgetown's mascot  
44. Farm state  
46. Military leader (abbr.)  
47. Russian river  
48. Teams' best pitchers  
49. In a more positive way  
50. Long French river  
51. Reactive structures in organic chemistry  
52. Distinctive practices  
53. Male gypsy  
54. When you hope to get there  
55. Men's fashion accessory  
56. Journalist Tarbell



# Storowton Village Museum offers and history and harvest tours

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Storowton Village Museum is offering a variety of safe, socially-distanced, educational programming for all ages. The tours follow all social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines and must be purchased in advance on the museum's website, [www.storowtonvillage.com](http://www.storowtonvillage.com).

MUSEUM & STEAM TOURS - \$8 and \$12; Tuesdays to Fridays at 11am & 3pm

In addition to general museum tours happening Tuesdays through Fridays at 11am, Storowton will offer a special 3pm tour focused entirely on science, technology, engineering, art and math. "We wanted to create an afterschool type of tour for students who are learning remotely or home-schooled, as a way to get out of the house and take a break from screens," said Jessica K. Fontaine, Director of Storowton Village Museum.

STEAM tours will provide an opportunity to share New England history through the lens of other disciplines and fields that people don't often connect with history museums. This new tour aims to bridge the early days of American industrialization and the fast-paced, tech-heavy world that we live in now. The tour is geared toward ages 7-12 but all ages are welcome to learn.

Visitors will receive activity packs at the start of their tour and museum staff will guide them through the innovations of the museum's 18th & 19th century buildings and people who lived and worked in them. Visitors will see artifacts of inventions and interesting machines then have the opportunity to use their imagination and complete a patent drawing of a new invention

that could be a solution to a need in today's world.

HISTORY & HARVEST - \$12; October 24 at 11am & 1pm and October 31 at 11am

Looking for fun and educational things to do as the leaves change color and the weather begins to cool? Learn about the history of New England's storied harvest season on select Saturdays in October at Storowton Village Museum!

Museum staff will invite visitors into the Clark Blacksmith Shop to see blacksmiths working at the forge and find out how oxen were integral to the process of harvesting. Before leaving the shop visitors will make their own horseshoe nail rings. Another stop will be the Greenwich Barn — built circa 1750 — to find out how corn is ground, turned into traditional treats like Johnny Cakes, make corn husk dolls and dip candles. Visitors will also stop by the Gilbert Farmhouse, a classic New England farmhouse, to talk about food preservation and make their own seed-saving packets. Visitors will be given items along the way to take home, including recipe cards, a gourd to paint and other seasonal surprises. Kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and take a picture by the "How Tall is Fall?" photo spot.

Additional tour dates and times can be accommodated by contacting the Museum in advance to make a reservation. Follow the museum on social media and sign up for the email newsletter at [www.storowtonvillage.com](http://www.storowtonvillage.com).

There is still time for Big E fans to grab some of their favorite fair foods at the Exposition and locations throughout Western



The Food-to-go event continues at the Big E grounds. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Mass. through Sunday, October 18.

The Big E Food-To-Go Drive Thru, sponsored by Westfield Bank. Visit [www.TheBigE.com](http://www.TheBigE.com) for tickets - \$5 per vehicle and final weekend promotions

The menu includes Big E favorites such as turkey legs, pork chop sandwiches, Billie's Baked Potatoes, Chompers and more! Vendors are:

- Angela's Pizza
- Billie's Baked Potato
- Calabrese Market & Grill
- Chompers
- Poppie's Concessions
- Porky's Pork Palace

The safety of our patrons is of the utmost importance and local and state COVID-19 guidelines are being strictly enforced. Guests must remain in their vehicles at all times and wear face masks or coverings when ordering and accepting food. Once food purchases are complete, guests will be directed to exit the grounds. Restrooms will not be open. There are limited public portable toilets available.

The Big E Bakery is open during the Drive-Thru for Cream Puffs and Eclairs and has extended its operation to Fri. and Sat., Oct. 23-25 from 10am to 6pm. Visit after your trip through the Drive-Thru by following signs to the New England Center or enter Gate 1 at no charge. Pre-order online at [www.TheBigE.com](http://www.TheBigE.com).

Big E Cream Puffs are also available near you! This is the final weekend to pick up the tasty treats at:

Delaney's Market in Longmeadow, Westfield and Wilbraham

New England Craft Pub at the Log Cabin in Holyoke, which also features Big E-inspired foods like the famous Turducken Sandwich, Mick's Irish Nachos and Chicken Pot Pie. Reservations are still available for Sunday, Oct. 18 and all food is 50% off! Make yours today at [www.thelogcabin.com](http://www.thelogcabin.com).

Hager's Farm Market in Shelburne will offer Big E Cream Puffs this weekend and next, Oct. 23-25.

The Sam Adams Bistro, located on the Avenue of States behind the Storowton Village Gift Shop, is serving a variety of delicious pub food and Sam Adams brews, including Jack-O Pumpkin Ale, now through Sat., Oct. 17, 4 to 9pm. Live music adds to the ambiance.

This just in: The Mighty Oktoberfest at the Student Prince/Fort Restaurant on Fort Street will be serving The Big E Pumpkin Beertini throughout their celebration. Visit [www.studentprince.com](http://www.studentprince.com) for reservations.

Look for details and information at [www.TheBigE.com](http://www.TheBigE.com). For the latest information on all the happenings at Eastern States Exposition, join our mailing list and connect with us on social media.



Storowton Village has several programs happening in the next month.

## Juried photography show announced

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are very excited to announce their First Open Juried Virtual Photography Show. We are not able to have our annual show at the library, but we want to continue to share the outstanding work of area photographers. The show benefits the Agawam Public Library and provides a platform to recognize and encourage these photographers. Awards totaling \$1340 will be determined by judging done on January 13. Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both well recognized photographers, will be the judges.

The show is divided into four categories of photog-

raphy: creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. The entry fee is \$25 per entry up to and including November 30, 2020. Starting December 1, the fee will be \$30. If we have not received sufficient entries by January 1, 2021, the show will be cancelled and all fees returned.

All images must be original, made by the photographer, captured by film or digitally, and cannot be previous entries in our show. For the show's Prospectus and Entry Form, please visit [www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends](http://www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends). For further information please contact Bob Kadis at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) or at 413-789-4814.

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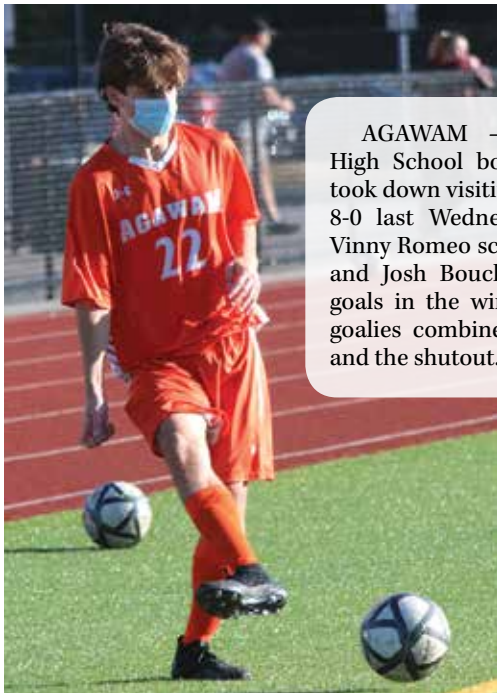
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# SPORTS

## SOCCER

# Brownies trounce Blue Devils



AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys soccer team took down visiting Northampton 8-0 last Wednesday afternoon. Vinny Romeo scored three times and Josh Bouchard added two goals in the win. Two Agawam goalies combined for five saves and the shutout.



Frank Decaro performs a kick-in, one of the new rules in COVID-era soccer.

Andrew Regnier eyes the goals as he crosses midfield.



Joshua Bouchard tries to balance the ball after intercepting a pass.



Dylan Wesley tries to get some separation from his opponent. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Vinny Romeo shoots on goal and scores.

## RACING

# Lutz wins modified race at Thompson

THOMPSON, Conn. — Miller Place, NY's Craig Lutz ended the 2020 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on the highest of highs with his second win of the year at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Sunday, October 11. Lutz swiped the lead from Jon McKennedy with seven laps remaining and hung on to win the 150-lap event at the 58th Annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing as Holtsville, NY's Justin Bonsignore secured his second series championship.

The 26-year-old Lutz earned his fourth career Whelen Modified Tour win and first at the historic Thompson Speedway. For the 32-year-old Bonsignore, the title was the capstone on a 2020 season where he finished no worse than fifth at any event.



Craig Lutz took the modified race on Oct. 11 at Thompson Speedway. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Six-time champion Doug Coby, who was the only driver who could catch Bonsignore entering

the Sunoco World Series, started on the pole and led the first 30

RACING | page 9

## FALL SPORTS

# High school play continues as high-risk communities emerge

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

REGION – It is clear to many MIAA official, school administrations, and athletic directors, that the Fall 1 season was not going to be without hiccups.

Already, a few student-athletes have tested positive for the coronavirus, and the bubble of Springfield teams have had to shut down their sports due to Springfield remaining high-risk for multiple weeks in a row.

But more locally, a few communities have reacted to being in the “red” differently.

Belchertown, widely known now to have stricter guidelines for athletics than other communities, has now had to

postpone a number of games scheduled against neighboring Amherst Regional High School. Amherst is in a Hampshire “bubble” league with Belchertown, South Hadley, and Granby among their opponents. While other schools within the bubble are continuing to play against Amherst, now in its second consecutive week of being a high-risk community for COVID-19, Belchertown will not allow Amherst to come to Belchertown, and will not travel there until Amherst is no longer a high-risk community.

The decision not to play Amherst was made by the school department on advice from Belchertown's health director. However, the Board of Health has not made

FALL SPORTS | page 9



# Sports

## Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is underway and Turley Publications has been back out covering the action for the first two weeks. We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color. We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in. We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere. If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs

to share, we definitely want to hear from you. If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us. Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting. We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

### FALL SPORTS ■ from page 3

any orders dictating how Belchertown High School approaches issues with sports, including the ban on spectators for the time being. Another community in the high-risk category is Holyoke. Holyoke High School has been classified as high-risk for two weeks as of Oct. 16, but teams other than West Springfield have continued to play against them. Holyoke High School Athletic Director Melanie Martin said West Springfield will not play against Holyoke until Holyoke has been “yellow” or moderate-risk or better for two consecutive weeks. Other communities, like Agawam, are following Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidance, which says three weeks of data are needed before a school considers ceasing play with a high-risk community. “That’s the guidance we received from DESE,” said Agawam Athletic Director David Stratton. “We have no problem playing against Holyoke.”

### RACING ■ from page 8

laps. Chelmsford, MA’s McKennedy then surged ahead of him entering turn three and paced the field unto the fourth caution flag at lap 73 for Dave Sapienza’s spin. Nearly all the lead lap cars chose to pit for right side tires at that point with Andover, NJ’s Calvin Carroll assuming the lead by staying out. Following another yellow on the restart for a Ronnie Williams spin, Norwalk, CT’s Ron Silk sliced to the lead for a circuit before Bonsignore then blasted to the lead on lap 88. The championship was then decided on a lap-97 restart. Silk eagerly leapt to the lead while Lutz tried to move around Bonsignore for second entering turn three. The duo wiggled, Kyle Bonsignore checked up, and the accordion effect ended with Coby in the turn-four wall, which put an end to his day. Since the lap wasn’t completed, Bonsignore went back to the lead by rule, and Silk was assessed a pass-through penalty for jumping the start. Lutz successfully overtook Bonsignore on the next green flag and paced the field until caution number nine. It was McKennedy who got the jump on the lap-138 restart for his second stint at the front. Sapienza pounded the turn-one wall a lap later for the 10th and final yellow. Lutz took advantage of his second chance, putting a crossover move on McKennedy out of turn two and wrestling the lead back with six laps to go.

McKennedy had time to take another shot, and with three laps to go, he backed off entering turn three to set up a potential slingshot off turn four. But Silk, who had steadily driven back to third after serving his penalty, got into the back of McKennedy. The contact threw McKennedy off just enough for Lutz to get away for the victory. Justin Bonsignore finished fourth to officially clinch his second Whelen Modified Tour title in the last three years. His cousin Kyle was right behind him in fifth. Sam Remeau took sixth while Woody Pitkat came back from a mid-race flat tire to finish seventh. Carroll, Patrick Emerling, and Tyler Rypkema completed the top-10.

## Prizes added for tri-track race at Stafford

SEEKONK – With a \$10,000 winning prize on the line for the Tri Track Open Modified Series debut at Stafford Motor Speedway on October 24, drivers will be pressing the throttle to the floor in hopes of getting to the front in the final laps. But, that \$10,000 check can only leave with one driver in the Call Before You Dig Modified Classic 81 – a race that is quickly shaping up to be one of the best Modified races of the season, if not one of the best in years. With more than 45 cars already entered for the debut at the half-mile, it’s clear that the big prize isn’t the only reason why drivers will flock to Connecticut. The total purse rises over \$49,500 -- and it continues to grow as the race gets closer. Second-place pays \$4,000, while third pays \$3,000, fourth \$2,500 and fifth \$2,100. Dropped down throughout the field, the driver that finishes last in the 81-lap feature will still collect a smooth \$1,000 for their efforts. For those who don’t qualify into the feature, there will also be tow money provided if they have pre-registered for the race. And that’s just the regular posted purse. Contingency bonuses have been a hot topic with the Tri Track Open Modified Series in 2020, and the debut at Stafford will be no different. Through the Pepsi Challenge, \$300 will be provided to each heat winner and the same \$300 will go towards each driver who wins a consi race. Through the first three races of the season, more than \$4,000 has already been distributed through the Pepsi Challenge. Mark, Kate and the team at Green Construction have also provided a hard charger award for the Stafford event – and this one is going to dramatically increase someone’s payday. Green will donate \$1,000 to the driver that advances the most positions during the race from start to finish. The award is determined by the driver that advances the most spots from their starting spot to where they finished. The team at Green Construction have been supporters of the Tri Track Series and have boosted the value on this award to give a bit of extra incentive for competitors. For once, it might be more beneficial to start towards the back of the field.

Ted Anderson – and his company, Superior Refinishing -- have provided \$200 per race so far in 2020 – a total of \$600 – and will add \$200 more to the pot at Stafford. If the driver that starts on the pole wins the 81-lap feature, their total prize will move to \$10,800. However, if the polesitter doesn’t win the race, the team at Superior will donate the \$800 towards creating a strong B-Main feature payout. Per the Tri Track rulebook, officials will determine on race day whether a B-Main is necessary based on how many cars are in the pit area. Finally, a new contingency award added to the pot this week includes former JR Motorsports employee and current NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour winning crew chief Ryan Stone. Stone, and his business, Stone’s Parts and Performance, based out of Milford, Connecticut, will sponsor a \$300 award for the driver that posts the fastest lap in the 81-lap race. Stone’s is a FURY parts dealer that also offers chassis consultation, shock services, setup help and more. The entry list for the race includes the top names in Modified racing – with Doug Coby, Keith Rocco Justin Bonsignore, Matt Hirschman, Ron Silk, Chase Dowling, Ronnie Williams, Mike Christopher Jr., Les Hinckley, Matt Swanson, Woody Pitkat, Burt Myers, Jon McKennedy and more expected. The entry list stands at 48 drivers on Friday, October 16, with still a week to go before the green flag. Stafford Motor Speedway will run at 50% capacity for this event due to restrictions by the state of Connecticut because of COVID-19. To purchase tickets, fans should visit the Stafford online store on the Stafford website. Tickets are \$35 for adults in general admission, \$10 for kids that are 6 to 14, and free for those under 5. Pit passes are also available for purchase at \$50. Any remaining tickets would be available at the gate if they don’t sell out. The race day schedule includes practice for the Tri Track Series from 11-12:30 p.m., with qualifying heat races starting at 1:30 p.m. The Call Before You Dig Modified Classic 81 is scheduled to take the green flag around 4:30 p.m. The Stafford SK Light Modifieds and Street Stocks will also join the racing card.

## Turley Sports joins Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with

your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



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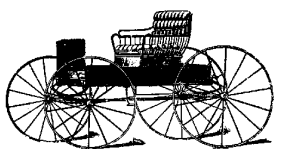
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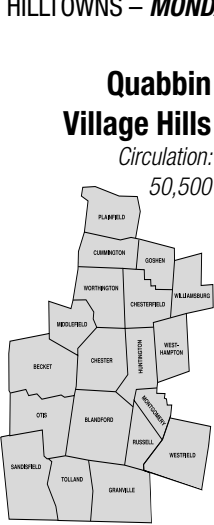
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HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

### CATEGORY:

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
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17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

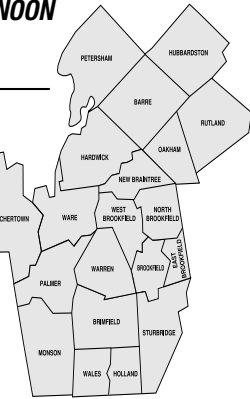
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Public Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AGAWAM  
CITY COUNCIL**

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William Sapelli on a proposed Zoning Amendment entitled "Accessory Apartments". A copy of the proposed ordinance (TOR-2020-5) can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office at **pkerr@agawam.ma.us** or from the Agawam City Clerk's Office at **vgioscia@agawam.ma.us**. This meeting may be viewed live on Channel 15 as well as

live-streamed on the town's website at **www.agawam.ma.us**

Any member wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on TOR-2020-5 may do so by dialing 1-978-990-5187 and using access code 8476635 followed by # sign. **Calls must be made at 7:05pm to provide testimony.** This remote hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at **www.agawam.ma.us** and also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2020-5 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at **vgioscia@agawam.ma.us**

BY ORDER OF:  
Christopher C. Johnson  
City Council President  
10/15, 10/22/2020

## How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to **notices@turley.com**. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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# STCC professors to work on intellectual property education initiative

SPRINGFIELD – Two Springfield Technical Community College professors have been selected to work on an intellectual property educational initiative over the next two years – an effort that could help Western Massachusetts business owners better understand how to protect their creative and original ideas.

STCC is one of only five colleges nationwide with faculty accepted into the Michelson IP (Intellectual Property) Educator in Residence Initiative.

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, in a collaboration with The Michelson Institute for Intellectual Property, selected STCC business professor Diane Sabato and Honors Program Director John Diffley, an attorney and history professor.

Sabato and Diffley will collaborate with four other educators over the next two years focusing on a mission to deliver intellectual property education. They join faculty from institutions in New Jersey, Florida, California and New Mexico.

Intellectual property refers to inventions and human creations such as literary and artistic works, designs, symbols and names and images used in commerce.

"The initiative's goal is to embed this information in 10 events, which might include workshops and courses," Sabato said. "There are very loose boundaries on the type of offering. They just want to spread IP education as widely as possible."

Sabato noted the initiative promotes and supports innovation and creativity, honoring the long and rich history of innovation and invention in Springfield and specifically at the Springfield Armory. STCC's campus is located on the site of the Springfield Armory National Park.

"STCC has a long and storied history of entrepreneurship and innovation, while housed in what was historically a thriving center of innovation – the Springfield Armory," said Sabato, who has taught classes focused on invention, entrepreneurship and innovation, including intellectual property content.

She will cover intellectual property concepts in a new entrepreneurship class at STCC this spring. STCC's business program, part of the School of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, is designed for students who want to obtain an associate degree before starting a career in business or

who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university and continue their education.

"I always get asked by entrepreneurs when they are starting their business – it could be a food truck, it could be a bakery, it could be anything – what do I need to do to protect myself? Do I have to file trademarks, copyrights, or service marks, and when do I need to file them?" Sabato said.

Sabato said many entrepreneurs don't know the basics of intellectual property. "There's not a great place to get good answers," she said.

Diffley brings the historical perspective of Springfield as an innovation hub and the capacity to implement campus-wide initiatives, initially, through the Honors Program.

"We are both members of broader based community initiatives and partnerships from high schools to four year colleges to the Greater Springfield area," Diffley said.

Richard Greco, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, said Sabato and Diffley both bring strong experience to their roles.

"They both have a passion for innovation and would love to see Springfield and the Pioneer Valley become an innovation hub once more," Greco said.

NACCE, in partnership with the Michelson Institute for Intellectual Property, an initiative of the Michelson 20MM Foundation, in September announced the acceptance of STCC and the other four institutions into the newly launched IP Educator in Residence Initiative. The Michelson Institute for Intellectual Property addresses critical gaps in intellectual property education to empower the next generation of inventors and entrepreneurs.

NACCE is an organization of educators, administrators, presidents and entrepreneurs focused on igniting entrepreneurship in their communities and campuses. NACCE has over 340 member colleges, representing nearly 2,500 members and approximately 3.3 million students.

STCC played a key role in the founding of the NACCE organization in 2002. STCC created the Entrepreneurial Institute, which focused on various aspects of entrepreneurship education. The STCC initiative drew interest from other community colleges, leading to the idea of NACCE.

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit **stcc.edu/apply** or call Admissions at 413-755-3333.

# Classifieds

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## HELP WANTED

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The Ludlow Public School District is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Applicants can apply online at **www.schoolspring.com** for more information contact Carie Haluch at 413.583.8372 ext. 121

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## REAL ESTATE

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**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON**

**HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON**

**FOR RENT**



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



# Town of Agawam

36 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



**HAMPDEN SS.**

To either of the constables of the Town of Agawam.

**GREETING:**

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in State Elections to vote at:

- Precinct 1: Robinson School, 65 Begley Street
- Precinct 2: Clifford M. Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street
- Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street
- Precinct 4: Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street
- Precinct 5: Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main Street
- Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street
- Precinct 7: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street
- Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

on TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020,  
from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Elections for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

**ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT  
SENATOR IN CONGRESS  
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS  
COUNCILOR  
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**

**FOR THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH  
FIRST DISTRICT  
EIGHTH DISTRICT  
SECOND HAMPDEN &  
HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT  
THIRD HAMPDEN DISTRICT  
HAMPDEN COUNTY**

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT  
REGISTER OF PROBATE**

**QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

**SUMMARY**

This proposed law would require that motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair.

Starting with model year 2022, the proposed law would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip any such vehicles that use telematics systems — systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server — with a standardized open access data platform. Owners of motor vehicles with telematics systems would get access to mechanical data through a mobile device application. With vehicle owner authorization, independent repair facilities (those not affiliated with a manufacturer) and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would not be allowed to require authorization before owners or repair facilities could access mechanical data stored in a motor vehicle’s on-board diagnostic system, except through an authorization process standardized across all makes and models and administered by an entity unaffiliated with the manufacturer.

The proposed law would require the Attorney General to prepare a notice for prospective motor vehicle owners and lessees explaining telematics systems and the proposed law’s requirements concerning access to the vehicle’s mechanical data. Under the proposed law, dealers would have to provide prospective owners with, and prospective owners would have to acknowledge receipt of, the notice before buying or leasing a vehicle. Failure to comply with these notice requirements would subject motor vehicle dealers to sanctions by the applicable licensing authority.

Motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities could enforce this law through state consumer protection laws and recover civil penalties of the greater of treble damages or \$10,000 per violation.

**A YES VOTE** would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles’ maintenance and repair.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law governing access to vehicles’ wirelessly transmitted mechanical data.

**QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting. Given under our hands this fifteenth day of October, 2020.

**SUMMARY**

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as “ranked-choice voting,” in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter’s ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going to the voter’s next choice out of the remaining candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates’ support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters’ rankings would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

**A YES VOTE** would create a system of ranked-choice voting in which voters would have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and votes would be counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with the lowest votes until one candidate has received a majority.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the laws governing voting and how votes are counted.

Vincent Gioscia  
Town Clerk